

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: February 12, 2003

Place: Room 118

Convened: 2/12/2003
3:05 PM

Recessed:

Reconvened:

Adjourned: 2/12/2003
3:40 PM

Present: Senators Gaskill-CH, Houser-VC, Black-RM, Seng, Seymour
Representatives De Boef-CH, Tjepkes-VC, Mertz-RM, Bell, Hahn, Rasmussen, Reasoner,
Whitaker

Absent: Representative Chambers

Excused: None

Chair Betty DeBoef called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM and asked for roll call. The minutes from the previous meeting on 2/11/03 were approved as written.

Chair DeBoef introduced Jeff Vonk, Director of Natural Resources. Director Vonk gave the Committee a general overview of the 2004 DNR budget. Director Vonk advised the Committee that he intended to maintain the current budget allocations FY 2004 in deference to the current budget constraints. He also advised the Committee that they were moving money around internally to try to cover various budget shortfalls, and that it would be very difficult to maintain the current budgeting level FY 2004. The Parks Department is not sustainable at the current level and will need to have restoration of the 2 million dollars that was cut in 2002, FY 2003, in order to maintain the State Parks without any closings FY 2004. Director Vonk also cautioned the Committee that any further budget cuts would also jeopardize Federal funding that is currently crucial to the budget process.

Chair DeBoef opened the floor to questions and some of the discussion topics were:

1. How is REAP license plate money used?
2. Has the Department visited the subject of "User Fees" and is there any analysis that would project revenue from such fees? (Director Vonk will provide this information to the Committee.)
3. How are ATV parks paid for and funded?
4. ATV and Snowmobile registration fees and how the fees are utilized?
5. Why isn't REAP under the jurisdiction of this Committee?
6. The taxing structure of DNR owned lands and does tax valuation decline when out of production?
7. Can the DNR supply DNR land taxing information to Committee by districts? (Director Vonk indicated he can provide this information by County.)

Chair DeBoef requested that this information be provided to the Committee.

Chair DeBoef announced that tomorrow's meeting has been cancelled and there are no meetings scheduled for next week.

Representative Hahn moved the meeting adjourn at 3:40 PM.

Representative Betty De Boef

Betty Sorenson, Committee Secretary